Filing of I.T. Returns

1778. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether permanent account number for the income-tax payers all over the country have been allotted;

(b) if so, what is the number of such PAN holders;

(c) whether the number of returns filed during the assessment year 1998-99 are broadly equal to such PAN holders; and

(d) if not, what is the difference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN) under new series for the Income-Tax Payers is in progress all over the country. The status of allotment of PAN all over the country, as on 18-11-1998, is as under:—

(i) Number of assessees on registers as on 31-3-98	1,48,46,934
(ii) Number of returns filed during F.Y. 1997-98	1,14,48,695
(iii) Number of filled in form 49A received	1,46,32,097
(iv) Number of PAN allotted as on 18-11-98	30,86,289

(c) and (d) The number of returns filed during the assessment year 1997-98 was 1,14,48,695.

As against this, a total of 1,46,32,097 applications in Form No. 49A have been received so far for allotment of PAN.

World Bank and IMF loan for Infrastructure projects

1779. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to approach the World Bank and IMF for loan for recently announced infrastructure projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) IMF loans are for Balance of Payments support and are not given for Development projects, while the World Bank loans are given for Development projects. Finalisation of projects with World Bank assistance is an on-going process and at any given time there are some projects in the pipeline. At present there are a number of pipeline projects in Infrastructure Sector like T.N. State Highway, Rajasthan State Highway, Orissa State Highway, TN Urban Development Fund, Mumbai Urban Development Project, IIIrd Madras Water Supply, Hyderabad Water Supply and Sanitation-II, AP Power APL-I, Haryana Power APL-II, National Highway III project, which are at varying stages of consideration by the World Bank.

Committee on Delay of Cases by CEGAT

1780. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of recommendations made by the Committee appointed by Government to identify the causes of inordinate delay in the disposal of cases by the Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Tribunal; and

(b) what are the details of such recommendations implemented by Government and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Sir. The Committee headed by Shri M.K. Kaw has made several recommendations relating to the causes of inordinate delay in the disposal of cases. Some of the main recommendations are as follows:

(i) Punctuality in assembly of the Benches needs to be improved;

(ii) Composition of the Benches should be stable at least for one year at a time;

(iii) The tendency of the litigants to seek adjournments should be curbed;

(iv) Orders in all simple cases and stay matters should be pronounced in the open court;

(v) All cases listed on a day-to-day basis should be heard fully.

(b) All the above mentioned recommedations have been implemented with the result that the pendency has been brought down from 52151 appeals as on 31.12.1994 to 33450 as on 30.9.1998.

Financial Scam in Accounts of DGHC

1781. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that serious financial scams have been detected by CAG while conducting test checks into accounts of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council; and

(b) whether Government propose to conduct full-fledged audit by CAG into the accounts of DGHC?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The reports of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the accounts of the State are submitted to the respective Governors who cause these reports to be laid on the table of the State Legislature. Further action is taken in accordance with the recommendations of the respective Public Accounts Committee of the respective State Legislature. The audit reports on the accounts of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council is a matter concerning the Government of West Bengal.

IRS Officers on Deputation

1782. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IRS officers on deputation to various institutions in Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Delhi who have completed their tenure but are not being called back; and

(b) the number of such officers who are on deputation even after having completed the maximum tenure permissible under the rules and whether Government propose to call them back to join their original cadres and whether Government also propose to strictly follow the maximum period of stay by not allowing any relaxation as per rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) 19 (Nineteen).

The tenure of the officers deputed to various organisations is governed by the rules regulating the appointment to the posts concerned. Extension in the deputation tenure of such officers is considered and granted by the borrowing organisations, and the CBDT as the lending Cadre Controlling Authority in respect of the Indian Revenue Service only conveys its 'No Objection' for extension of tenure of such officers keeping in view the requirements of the Department. Unless the competent authority decides otherwise, under the existing instructions, the officers concerned will revert back to the cadre on the completion of their extended tenure. CBDT permits deputation